

PETITION

OF

GRAFTON TYLER, AND OTHERS,

PRAYING

*The establishment of a department of the Government to promote the interests of agriculture, of science, and of the mechanical and fine arts.*

MAY 3, 1838.

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled :*

The undersigned

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT :

That they are deeply impressed with the importance of a department of the Government, to promote the great interests of *agriculture*, of *science*, and of the *mechanical* and *fine arts*; and they submit to Congress whether such a department should not forthwith be founded by its authority. Your memorialists are of opinion, that if such a department were established, an officer appointed to preside over it, with the necessary assistants, and a suitable building or buildings erected in which collections of seeds and plants, of geological and minerological specimens, of paintings and statuary, and of curiosities might be deposited, every enlightened American citizen would feel that he had a property therein, and deem it a pleasure to add to the valuable treasure it might contain. It should be the duty of this department to gather information and specimens, on the subjects embraced in its design, from all quarters and sources, and to impart information to all who might desire it, especially to the schools and youth of the country. Under this department, well administered, there would arise at the capitol of the Union, a national museum and repository of agricultural improvements of science and art, which would prove of extensive and enduring utility. Your memorialists say nothing of the details of the plan, their purpose being merely to invite the attention of Congress to the general design, which they regard as of great interest to the country.

Grafton Tyler, M. D.  
Nichs. Stonestreet  
Jno. H. Sothoron  
John C. Jenifer

J. R. Thompson  
Owen Kelly  
R. W. Harrison  
C. L. Jones

Wm. Claggett  
 G. W. Bowie  
 Henry Hammond  
 Robt. W. Bowie  
 John Page  
 Robt. G. Wiselin  
 W. W. West  
 Danl. Brent, M. D.  
 J. J. Roane  
 C. B. Robinson  
 J. Parriott  
 Rich. N. Snowden  
 R. R. Gurley  
 Edwin Green  
 Wm. B. Scott  
 George Fenwick  
 Ph. A. Sachi  
 George Shofer  
 D. K. Cahoon  
 H. Perrine  
 John Queen  
 E. Tolson  
 T. L. Thonston  
 Rich. Johnson  
 David Lyles  
 G. Humphry  
 T. P. Pendleton  
 Dade P. Noland  
 Josiah Bosworth  
 James Fossett  
 Benjamin A. Thorn  
 C. J. M. Eversfield  
 James Mitchell  
 C. Y. Jardella  
 T. N. Davis  
 John F. Webb  
 Clement Hill  
 Geo. Kephart

George Hilbus  
 C. Simmes  
 John Carroll Brent  
 J. P. Van Tyne  
 J. Harris  
 P. J. Steer  
 Rich. S. Cox  
 A. Addison  
 Tho. Parker, jr.  
 R. J. Powell  
 B. P. Smith  
 Wm. Fischer  
 Samuel DeVaughan  
 Samuel Mitchell  
 C. W. Nann  
 Wm. Sexsmith  
 Geo. Savage  
 E. Franzoni  
 N. Cruher  
 John Brannan  
 Samuel Raub, jr.  
 Michael Hill  
 William Plutt  
 George L. Le Row  
 Richard B. Sewall  
 Geo. Sweeny  
 W. B. Worthington  
 John Wilson  
 N. R. Dulany  
 Danl. Searll  
 Wm. A. Williams  
 Felix Richards  
 Clement Cox  
 Jos. L. Smith  
 P. Cromley  
 C. D. Kelly  
 R. J. Brent  
 H. Naylor

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Granton Tyler, M. D.  
 Nicholas Stonestrom  
 Jno. H. Schorron  
 John O. Jemler